

RAMSBOTTOM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

Medical Officer of Health for 1909.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS,

GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you my 25th Annual Report for the year ended December 31st, 1909, detailing to you in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Board, the mortality rate of the past year, together with the birth rate and particulars as to the infectious diseases.

Calculated on a population of 16,200, the death rate for the past year is 14.32 per 1000. The number of deaths recorded being 232 : Males 113, Females 119, an increase of 26 on the previous year. This number includes the deaths of 14 persons who have died in the Unión Workhouse ; 1 in the Manchester Infirmary ; 1 in Ancoats Hospital ; 1 in Lancaster Asylum, and 1 in Rainhill Asylum.

The birth rate for the same period is 17.71 per 1000 ; 287 children having been born : Males 156, Females 131—35 less births than last year.

With regard to longevity, 19 deaths occurred in persons over 75 of age ; 9 over 80 years ; 3 over 85 years and 1 over 90 years.

The deaths from Zymotic diseases are 17, this being same as last year.

In the quarter ending March 31st, the death rate was .308—West Ward, 1 Whooping Cough; East Ward, 2 Diphtheria, 1 Whooping Cough; North Ward, 1 Diphtheria. Quarter ending June 30th, the death rate was .308—Central Ward, 1 Scarlet Fever; West Ward, 1 Scarlet Fever, aged 42 years, 1 Intestinal Catarrh aged 1 month.. Bury Workhouse, 1 Diarrhœa. Rainhill Asylum, 1 Diarrhœa. Quarter ending September 30th, the death rate was .123. North Ward, 2 Measles. Quarter ending December 31st the death rate was .308. Central Ward, 1 Gastritis, aged two months; 2 Gastro-enteritis, each aged 1 month; West Ward, 1 Gastro-enteritis, aged 1 month; East Ward, 1 Measles.

Table I shows the cases of Infectious Diseases notified during each month of the year under the "Infectious Diseases Notification Act."

The cases occur in the different Wards as follows : Central 36 ; North 23 ; East 53 ; West 98

	Diphtheria	Mem. Cre up	Erysipels	Scarlet Fever	Typhus	Enteric	Interferal	Smallpox.	Cholera.	Total.
January	9	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	14
February	2	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	7
March	3	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	5
April	1	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	10
May	1	0	0	28	0	0	0	0	0	29
June	3	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	23
July	1	0	0	24	0	0	0	0	0	25
August	2	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	19
September	8	0	0	13	0	1	0	0	0	22
October	4	0	0	12	0	1	0	0	0	17
November	1	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	21
December	1	0	0	16	0	1	0	0	0	18
Totals	36	1	0	168	0	5	0	0	0	210

Table II shews the different ages at which the deaths occurred within the preceding eight years.

	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909
Deaths under 1 year...	48	40	41	36	35	36	32	39	29
Deaths over 1 and under 5.....	15	23	15	20	15	28	13	15	21
" 5 "	15	12	10	11	12	3	8	8	8
" 15 "	25	9	16	14	7	7	8	10	5
" 25 "	60	85	80	74	82	66	72	68	64
" 60 years.....	111	84	75	86	92	91	96	66	105
Deaths under 5 years ...	63	63	56	56	50	64	45	54	50
Deaths over 5 years ...	188	190	181	185	193	167	184	152	182

4

Table III gives (a) area, (b) population, (c) total number of deaths, (d) deaths from principal Zymotic Diseases, (e) births for the year.

	Central		North		East		West		Entire District	
Area in acres	251	253	237	241	243	231	229	206	232	
Population (estimated)	290	2609	1112	2314	6325					
Deaths in year (outside District 18) ...	5000	3000	3848	4352	16200					
Deaths from Zymotic Diseases	52	43	53	66	232					
Death rate from Zymotic diseases per 1000 ...	4	4	4	3	17					Bury Workhouse, 1 Rainhill Asylum, 1
Births for the year.....	247	247	247	185	100					
	83	47	78	79	287					

Table IV shows the comparison of deaths from Infectious Diseases and other causes during the past 10 years.

	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909
Smallpox...	...	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Measles ...	...	6	1	10	0	4	1	9	0	2	3
Scarlet Fever ...	...	3	4	0	0	0	0	3	1	3	2
Diphtheria and Croup ...	...	2	2	4	2	0	1	4	2	7	3
Whooping Cough ...	...	7	5	1	1	4	7	0	3	0	2
Typhus Fever ...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enteric Fever ...	...	1	3	2	1	4	6	2	3	2	0
Erysipelas ...	...	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Diarrhoea and Dysentery	14	7	15	2	7	1	11	10	3	3	7
Total Infectious Diseases	33	22	22	17	21	19	14	28	12	17	17
Other Causes ...	245	262	229	236	215	222	229	203	217	189	215
											5

The death rate from Zymotic Diseases was in the first quarter .308; in the second quarter .3 8; in the third quarter .123, and in the fourth quarter .3 8.

3 Measles :—1 East Ward, November, 2 years; 2 North Ward, July, 13 months, August 8 months.

2 Scarlet Fever :—1 Central Ward, May, 9 months; 1 West Ward, 42 years.

3 Diphtheria ;—2 East Ward, February 6 years, March, 4 years; 1 North Ward, February, 6 years.

2 Whooping Cough :—1 West Ward, January, 8 months; 1 East Ward, March, 15 months.

7 Diarrhoea :—3 Central Ward, October, Gastritis, 2 months, Gastro-enteritis, 1 month, November, Gastro-enteritis, 1 month.

2 West Ward, May, Intestinal Catarrh, 1 month, December, Gastro-enteritis, 1 month.

1 Bury Workhouse, May, 71 years; 1 Rainhill Asylum, April, 37 years.

Table V shows the Causes of, and Ages at, death during 1909.

Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents," whether occurring in or beyond the District													Deaths at all ages of "Residents" belonging to Localities, whether occurring in or beyond the District.												
ALL AGES.		Under 1 year		1 and 5		5 and 15		15 and 25		25 and 65		up- wards.		C. Ward.		W. Ward.		E. Ward.		N. Ward.		Bury Union.		Others.	
Measles	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever.....	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria (including Memb. Croup)	3	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Epidemic Influenza.....	7	0	0	0	1	2	4	0	1	2	4	4	1	1	4	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diarrhœa	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1
Enteritis	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gastritis	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ..	19	0	0	0	0	0	16	3	0	0	3	8	2	2	5	2	2	5	0	1	0	2	0	0	0
Other Tuberculous Diseases	9	3	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	6	9	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1
Cancer, malignant diseases	20	0	0	0	0	0	12	8	0	0	5	2	6	4	0	2	2	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Bronchitis	14	0	1	0	0	0	8	1	0	0	1	1	9	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia	18	4	3	1	1	1	8	1	1	8	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pleurisy	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other diseases of Respiratory organs	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alcoholism.—Cirrhosis of liver.	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Premature birth	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diseases and accidents of parturition	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Heart Diseases	26	0	0	1	1	1	12	12	1	1	12	6	6	2	9	4	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Accidents	6	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diabetes.....	3	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All other causes	84	9	7	1	1	1	36	36	1	1	30	15	26	17	19	6	1	2	19	6	1	1	1	1	1
	232	29	21	8	5	93	76	76				52	66	53	43	14	4								

In regard to the mortality of children under one year, there is a decrease of 10, as compared with the number recorded last year. The rate is 12.5 per cent. of the entire number of deaths, and 10.1 per cent. on the number born.

The deaths of eight children under one year are the result of infectious diseases: Scarlet Fever 1, Measles 1, Whooping Cough 1, Gastro-enteritis 3, Gastritis 1, and Intestinal Catarrh 1. The number of deaths under five years is 50, this being a decrease of four as compared with last year.

In regard to Scarlet Fever, I have to report two deaths—one Central Ward and one West Ward; 168 cases were notified, and of these 64 were removed to the Isolation Hospital at Bury. The cases occurred in the wards as follows: Central 29, West 90, East 35, North 14.

From Enteric Fever no deaths have resulted. Five cases have been notified, and one was removed to the Hospital. The cases occurred in the following wards: Central one, East two, West two.

Three deaths have occurred from Diphtheria—two East Ward and one North Ward.

Diarrhœa has been the cause of seven deaths—Central Ward three, two Gastro Enteritis and one Gastritis; West Ward two, one Gastro Enteritis and one intestinal Catarrh; one Diarrhœa Bury Workhouse; one Diarrhœa Rainhill Asylum.

With regard to the precautions taken for the prevention of the spreading of infectious disease, a careful supervision has been exercised by the Inspector, and the houses in which cases have occurred have been sprayed and fumigated with Formaldehyde. In cases of Enteric Fever, pails and disinfectants are provided. The contents of the pails are disinfected previous to being buried.

From non-infectious diseases, 215 deaths have resulted, Nineteen are due to Phthisis, being two less than last year—this is a death rate for this disease of 1·17 per 1000, and 8·19 per cent. of the entire number of deaths. Of the 19 cases there were 11 males and eight females, the ages varying from 25 to 74 years; three were under 30 years, and 16 were in ages varying from 30 to 74 years.

As regards occupation, six were housekeepers, six cotton operatives, one stone mason, one labourer, one stone waller, one shoemaker, one clogger, one iron turner, and one french polisher. The deaths occurred in Central Ward 8, East Ward 2, West Ward 2, North Ward 5, Bury Workhouse 2; January 3, February 2, March 2, April 2, May 2, June 1, July 1, August 1, September 1, November 2, December 2.

From respiratory diseases 34 deaths have occurred, being a decrease of one on the previous year: it gives a death rate of 2·1 per 1000 of the population, and 14·26 per cent of the entire number of deaths, of these nine were children under five years of age, and 25 persons over that age.

The deaths from heart disease number 26, being 1·6 per 1000 of the population, and 11·2 per cent. of the entire number of deaths; an increase of eight deaths as compared with last year. From other causes (including six accidents) 146 deaths occurred.

Street and Road Improvements, Sewerage, &c.

A considerable amount of money has been expended during the year on the repair and maintenance of the Main Roads in the Urban District. The ordinary upkeep of these roads has cost a little over £1300, and in addition to this ordinary expenditure, a further sum of £1202 has been spent on

schemes of improvement in connection with the Main Roads. These special items comprise the following works; the re-construction of a length of paving in Bolton Road North at a cost of £459; the laying of an additional length of tar grouted macadam on Whalley Road at a cost of £548; the re-sheeting of a length of macadam on Helmshore Road at a cost of £100, and the re-sheeting of a length of macadam on Longsight Road and the Halter Bridge at a cost of £95. The gradual replacing of the ordinary macadam by tar grouted roads is having a perceptible effect in reducing the nuisance caused by the dust in the dry months of the year. We do not, however, suffer in this respect to the extent which many towns do, for long lengths of both our main and district roads are paved.

The Private Improvements in respect to Street works have cost during the year a sum of £825, including the necessary sewers and surface water connections, and the amounts have been apportioned and charged to the frontagers. The following particulars are given of this work as carried out:—Length of Private Streets paved 270 yards; area of sett paving and flagging laid down 1860 square yards; length of sewers laid 103 yards. Nearly the whole of this work has been carried out in the neighbourhood of Peel Brow, and these improvements, supplementing those which were executed last year in the same vicinity, are certainly conducive to the benefit of the health of the tenants of the houses.

Other Street and Road Improvements completed during the year include the re-construction of Albert Street, a scheme which entailed the erection of a strong stone-faced concrete retaining wall, the total cost of the work reaching the sum of £984, the repair of Moor Road at a cost of £58, the re-construction of Chatterton Road at a cost of £480, and the completion of the macadam surface in Hill Street, Summerseat, at a cost of £425. The safety of the public has been provided for in Waterside Road, Summerseat, by the erection of an iron fence on the sides of the river Irwell.

The Sewage Works during the past twelve months have been enlarged, the improvements embracing the construction of a new circular bacterial filter, 97 feet in diameter, the alteration and strengthening of five octagonal bacterial filters, the completion of Sedimentation tank and Dosing tank, and the construction of a new sludge channel. Ames Crosta's sprinkling apparatus has been fixed to distribute the sewage on the six bacterial beds, and the sprinklers were brought into operation on September 8th, 1909. The works continue to give a very good effluent, and have during the year occupied a distinctly creditable position in the Reports of the Inspector to the Mersey and Irwell Rivers Authority.

The length of $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles of trunk sewer in the Hardsough valley has been finished, and this has enabled the Edenfield drainage to be coupled up to the Main Drainage system. A new sewer has been laid in Carr Street and Tanners Street, and this will connect up sewage matter which has been previously discharged to the river without initial treatment.

The number of Building Plans submitted has been 33, of which 32 have been approved, and 1 disapproved. The plans comprise 10 dwelling houses, extensions to 6 mills, 9 alterations and additions to existing premises, 10 plans for sanitary conveniences, 2 plans for stables, plan for Electricity Supply Station, and other miscellaneous plans.

The services of the Ambulance Carriage have been requisitioned 35 times during the twelve months ending December 31st, 1909.

Scavenging.

The Scavenging of the district is carried out satisfactorily, very few written applications now being received. The whole of the work is done by your own staff. Due attention has been paid to the sweeping and cleansing of the roads, the general condition of which is satisfactory.

With regard to the disposal of refuse, this is at present deposited on tips, which are, as far as possible, kept in a clean condition. This method, however, is not satisfactory, as there are periods during the summer months when foul emanations will arise from the organic matter deposited. The most sanitary method of dealing with this refuse is by destruction in a properly constructed refuse destructor, and, amongst other matters, this is one which the Council have in mind, and at no distant date the question will have serious attention.

Water Supply.

In reference to the Water Supply, rapid progress is being made at the Ogden Reservoir, Haslingden Grane. The reservoir at Scout Moor, which has been in progress for several years, is now completed, and the water has been turned into the mains. This will provide an abundant supply of good water. An inspection of the various gathering grounds shows that there can be no pollution which would interfere with the purity of the water. None of the ground in the vicinity of the reservoirs is cultivated, and there is no manure deposited.

During the year, water has been supplied to eleven houses, eight baths, and thirty-seven water closets

No new water mains have been laid in the district during the year.

Common Lodging House.

The Common Lodging House has been regularly inspected, and has been found in a clean and satisfactory condition.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

During the year, I have, along with the Inspector, visited the different farms supplying milk, and find that generally the regulations have been duly carried out. In the case

of four farms, considerable improvements have been effected regarding ventilation, light, and cubic space. On the whole, the condition of the cowsheds in this district is fairly satisfactory. There are still a few which require alterations, and some of these will be dealt with during the coming summer months.

Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.

There are 85 places on the register of workshops. Of this number 17 are bakehouses. The usual visits have been paid and the condition has been found satisfactory. Sanitary improvements have been carried out in connection with several factories and one workshop.

Homework.

As usual in the case of homework, only one firm has sent in the lists required by the Act. The houses have been visited, and the condition of the premises is very satisfactory.

The annual report of the Sanitary Inspector is annexed, showing the number of sanitary improvements carried out during the year. Good progress in the conversion of privy closets to the water carriage system has been made. 167 water closets or waste water closets have been fixed during the year, the number of w. c.'s being 37. It is satisfactory to note that very little difficulty has been occasioned by objection on the part of the property owners.

The Zymotic death rate is the same as last year, 17 deaths occurred, the rate being 1.00 per 1000.

The epidemic of Scarlet Fever which commenced in October, 1907, has continued unabated until the end of this year, but I am happy to record that at the time of writing this report, a great diminution of cases has occurred. Only 1 case of Scarlet fever has been notified during the month of January

in the present year (1910). A table is given hereunder showing the different localities in which Scarlet fever and other diseases have prevailed.

	Scarlet Fever.				Diphtheria.				Enteric Fever.				Membraneous Croup.			
	C.	N.	E.	W.	C.	N.	E.	W.	C.	N.	E.	W.	C.	N.	E.	W.
January....		2	1	1	2		7									
February..	2			2		1	1					1				
March....				1		1	1	1								
April....	3		3	3			1									
May.....	14	1	6	7		1										
June....	1		9	10		1	2									
July.....	2	1	1	20		1										
August..		1	6	10	1		1									
September.		3	2	8	1	4	2	1				1				
October..	2	1	3	6	1			3								
November.	3	3	3	11				1				1				
December..	2	2	1	11	1							1				
	29	14	35	90	6	9	15	6	1		2	2				1
	168				36				5				1			

It is still satisfactory to know that in spite of the great number of cases, the deaths from Scarlet Fever is remarkably low. Of the 168 cases reported, 62 were removed to the Isolation Hospital at Bury. These cases were removed where on inspection it was found that isolation at home could not be carried out. The cases coming under my knowledge have been of a very mild character. In regard to the cases detained at home, the utmost care was, with a few exceptions, taken by the parents.

In the early part of the year, the usual warning was issued to the people by handbills and posters, and warnings were also given verbally as to the danger of coming in contact with persons from infected houses.

It is a matter of regret that the epidemic should have been so persistent. The expense in maintenance of the cases removed has been fairly large, but it is a satisfactory feature, that not a single case of fever removed from our district has proved fatal.

The death rate from scarlet fever is 1.2 per cent. of the actual number of cases notified.

In reference to the Schools it was found necessary in July to close St. Pauls, Stubbins, and Edenfield Day Schools, on account of an outbreak of measles.

Peel Brow School was closed for a similar reason in October, and Rowlands School in December. The Schools were disinfected on each occasion before re-opening.

In regard to measles, this is not a notifiable disease in our district, so that I cannot give the exact number of cases. Three cases proved fatal but these were complicated with the usual pulmonary affections.

I am happy to report that small pox has again been absent during the year.

From enteric fever 5 cases have been notified, none of which proved fatal ; one case only was removed to the hospital. The district has been comparatively free from this disease.

From Diphtheria and Croup 3 deaths have occurred out of 37 cases notified. It is to be regretted that parents sometimes delay in sending for medical assistance, often with fatal results.

No cases of puerperal fever have been notified.

Gentlemen,—I have again to thank you for your courtesy and kindness during the year, and for the assistance and advice which I have received from you. I have also to thank my fellow officials for the great assistance I have received from them.

I am, Gentlemen, yours respectfully,

WILLIAM DEANS, M.B., C.M.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1909.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
RAMSBOTTOM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN.

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration my Eighth Annual Report, giving you particulars of the sanitary work which has been carried out during the year ended December 31st, 1909.

Cleansing Department.

The whole of the work in connection with this department is now done by your own horses and staff.

The work is generally well attended to, and as a rule gives satisfaction. Written applications, however, come in at various times, but this is, to some extent, unavoidable. It is satisfactory to note that there have been fewer applications this year than usual, only forty-six notices having been received from the four Wards. The ashpits are emptied, if possible, within twenty-four hours after the receipt of the notice.

In Central Ward all nightsoil work, except the emptying of dust bins, is done during the night, two horses being set apart for this purpose.

Offal and garbage from slaughter-houses, greengrocers, etc., are collected twice per week by your own staff, the cost of such removal being charged to the respective occupiers. During the year about 200 loads have been removed from the above premises, and over 100 loads of refuse have been taken from the Market Place.

Disposal of Refuse.

The refuse is disposed of by means of tips. Six are at present in use in various parts of the district.

The contents of cesspools and wet pails are taken to various farms, and mixed with soil or sweepings, and the whole mass is then transferred to the land.

In Summerseat District the matter is treated with the ordinary sewage, at the sewage disposal works.

Every endeavour is made to keep the tips in a clean condition, the surface being kept free from any offensive matter. The slopes, however, are exposed, and at various times during the summer months, offensive odours, to a greater or less extent, arise from the decomposing organic matter. Most of the tips are well removed from dwellings, and thus to a certain extent nuisances arising therefrom are minimised, but they cannot be held to be other than insanitary and objectionable.

The following Table shows the amount of house refuse removed monthly from the district :

	Ashpits.	Loads.	Dry Pails.	Wet Pails.	Cesspools.	Barrels.
January	332	362	2500	3610	30	90
February	380	433	2000	2880	9	72
March	337	356	2024	2792	12	67
April	431	482	2530	3590	46	99
May	365	404	2024	2872	21	71
June	357	352	2024	3272	6	65
July	538	488	2530	3590	25	87
August	348	337	1928	3149	7	59
September	586	488	2495	3425	27	93
October	462	380	2000	2768	28	73
November ...	441	349	2000	2768	23	69
December	373	392	2500	3460	16	87
Total.....	4960	4823	26555	38176	250	932
1908	4468	4806	25194	37605	270	962
Increase.....	492	17	1361	571		
Decrease					20	30

Table showing where house refuse has been deposited each month :—

	Cemetery	Dearden Clough.	Shipper- bottom.	Ewood Bridge.	Miller St.	Longsight.	Others.
January.....	191	42	42	17	29	35	6
February . . .	179	37	82	28	34	25	48
March	174	60	18	46	38	14	6
April.....	236	53	77	22	43	30	21
May	166	66	80	12	34	21	25
June	198	41	32	19	33	17	12
July	244	64	83	20	50	20	7
August	138	31	84	26	28	16	14
September ...	258	50	65	15	40	25	35
October	160	57	76	21	38	13	15
November ...	188	42	36	18	33	23	9
December ...	176	55	91	16	34	14	6
Total.....	2308	597	766	260	434	253	204
1908	2335	624	760	238	472	219	158
Increase			6	22		34	46
Decrease	27	26			38		

The following is a summary of the work which has been carried out :—

Privies reconstructed or repaired	3
Privy closets abolished	105
Water closets or waste water closets substituted	105
Privy cesspit closets abolished	38
Water closets or waste W.C's substituted	38
Pail closets abolished	16
Water closet or waste water C's substituted	17
Additional W.C's or W. W.C's in existing property	7
do. do. do. in new property	4
Closets rebuilt or repaired	12
Defective W. C.'s repaired	1
do. Waste W.C.'s repaired	6
Waste W.C.'s drains cleared	314
Ashpits reconstructed or repaired	21
Ashpits abolished	15
Dust bins provided	25
Defective wet pails replaced	15
do. dust bins do.	3
House drains relaid	35
do. do. cleansed or repaired	6
Stone drains abolished	9
Houses connected to new sewers	61
New gullies fixed	70
" Bell " traps taken out	6
Drain inlets trapped	5
Slopstone pipes trapped or repaired	5
Eaves throughs replaced or repaired	15
R.W.P's replaced or repaired	12
Ventilating shafts provided	6
Inspection chambers provided	9
" Short hopper " closet abolished, W.C. fixed	1
Lead soilpipes removed inside buildings... ..	1
New Iron soil pipes fixed	2
Closet passages flagged	2

risk of blockage. The extra charge for water is the chief objection on the part of owners to the fixing of w.c.'s.

Over 300 blocked slop closets have been attended to during the year, this occurring, as usual, where the closets and passages are used in common by two or more occupiers. A great portion of the expense and trouble might be avoided if the doors of the closets were kept locked so that children could not gain access, and drop articles down the pedestals.

Handbills have been posted drawing the attention of occupiers to their responsibility in relation to the cleansing of common passages. It has also be found necessary, on several occasions, to serve informal notices requiring common passages to be cleansed.

Street Cleansing.

During the year the streets have been regularly swept. The work is done chiefly by machine brushes. Two extra men have been put on this work each having a specific length of roadway. The result has been highly satisfactory.

Extra lengths of tar-grouted macadam have been laid at Whalley Road during the year, and as before reported there appears to be much less dust than in the case of ordinary macadam.

The streets have been watered when necessary during dry weather, and the gullies have been regularly cleansed and disinfected.

Public Urinals

The Public Urinals are swept and disinfected every day, this arrangement appears to be very satisfactory, and any risk of nuisance is reduced to a minimum. There is only one which has a water supply, and therefore the constant cleansing of the remainder is a necessity. The accommodation at Stubbins Lane is of an obsolete type, and it would be a great improvement if one of a modern type could be erected.

Smoke.

Eighteen smoke observations of one hours' duration, have been taken during the year. In two cases the time limit was exceeded. In each instance statutory notice was served and the managers were interviewed. There has since been some improvement. In nine of the observations the emission of black smoke was under 4 minutes. The time limit of twelve minutes per hour allowed by the local authority is very high when compared with other manufacturing districts, and it would undoubtedly be of advantage if it could be materially reduced.

Slaughterhouses.

There are sixteen slaughterhouses in the district, twelve licensed, and four registered. They are periodically visited and are generally found satisfactory. One occupier had to be cautioned for neglecting to limewash, and for allowing an accumulation of manure to exist near the lair; whilst another had to be cautioned respecting irregularity in removing offal etc., from the vicinity of the slaughterhouse.

Factory and Workshops.

There are 85 names on the Workshops register. Two have been added during the year, and five have been deducted. The places are periodically visited.

Four written notices have been received from the Factory Inspector in relation to the sanitary accommodation at factories.

Four notices have been served under the Factory and Workshops Act. The following work has been carried out at various places—

- (A) Two water closets provided.
- (B) Cesspool closet abolished and water closet substituted.
- (C) Water closet substituted for insanitary closet.
- (D) Pail closet abolished and water closet substituted.
- (E) Closet passages flagged, open cesspool covered over.

Several other cases are in hand and will be dealt with early in the coming year.

Common Lodging House.

There is only one Common Lodging House in the district and this has been periodically visited. It has, as usual, been found satisfactory; the occupier endeavouring to keep the place in a clean and sanitary condition.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

The number of persons on the register is 79. Three notices have been served under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order. The farms are regularly visited, and as a general rule are found satisfactory as regards cleansing. Occasionally it is found necessary to remind occupiers of their duty in regard to the limewashing of the cow sheds.

Alterations have been carried out at various farms, the details of which are as follows :—

Hey Meadow Farm.—The roof of the cowshed at this farm was raised two feet, extra window area was provided, and the floor was taken up and reconstructed.

New Farm, Summerseat.—At this place, the shed was entirely re-arranged, the roof raised three feet, new stalls provided, floor taken up and reconstructed, space from head of cattle to rear wall increased by two feet, and additional light and ventilation provided.

Higher House Farm, Hawkshaw.—The roof of the shed at this farm was raised two feet, the window area greatly increased, the drain reconstructed, and a gully removed from within the cowshed.

A new cowshed has been completed at Higher Red Lees Farm, and the cubic capacity per head of cattle is now over 800 c. ft.

Repairs of a minor nature have also been carried at Hawkshaw Farm.

Infectious Disease and Disinfection.

During the year 210 cases of infectious diseases were notified to the Medical Officer.

Sixty-two cases of Scarlet fever, 1 case of Enteric fever, and 1 case of Diphtheria were removed to the Infectious Diseases Hospital at Bury.

St. Paul's School, Stubbins School, and Edenfield School were closed in July on account of an outbreak of Measles. Peel Brow School was closed in October, and Rowlands School in December. The Schools were disinfected on each occasion before re-opening.

157 houses were also disinfected during the year.

Inspections and enquiries were made at the various houses affected, and instructions given as to isolation and the use of disinfectants.

In all cases of infectious disease, disinfectants are supplied free, and this seems to be much appreciated by the householders.

In cases of Enteric fever, pails are provided, and these are regularly attended to by your own men. The contents of the pails are thoroughly disinfected, and afterwards buried at the foot of the nearest refuse tip.

In connection with the day schools, disinfectants are supplied free, and after being diluted, the solution is either sprayed on the floor, or mixed with sawdust, which is scattered over the floor previous to the sweeping process. This latter

method is much preferable to dry sweeping, as the dust does not rise to the same extent, and as a disinfecting solution is used instead of water, the result no doubt will be beneficial.

The epidemic has been continuous throughout the year, and consequently has taken up a considerable amount of time. This has interfered with general systematic inspection, but, of course, it is of the utmost importance that prompt attention be given to the outbreaks of infectious disease.

House to House Inspection.

A house to house inspection was commenced in Central Ward during 1908, and was completed in January 1909. North Ward was next commenced, and this was almost completed at the end of the year. The details of about 2,000 houses have been taken. Time spent in relation to the epidemic of Scarlet fever and in relation to a large amount of drainage work in connection with the conversion of privies to W.C.'s, has prevented the completion of North Ward. It is intended to proceed with the inspection as time permits, and if the epidemic abates (as now seems to be the case) possibly East and West Wards could be completed by the end of the new year.

Drainage and Sewerage.

New Sewers have during the year, been laid at Chatterton Road, Kenyon street and Back Stanley street: the total length being 356 yards. In every instance, the owners of property abutting have adopted the water carriage system in place of privies, &c. About 61 houses have been connected up to the sewerage scheme. Under the Main Drainage Scheme, two contracts have been completed during the year, viz :—Carr street

sewer and Hardsough sewer. The latter extends from Stubbins to Hardsough and Blackburn road. A great number of houses can now be connected up to the sewerage system, and this will, as far as possible, be attended to during the coming year. The inspection of new drains is strictly carried out ; no drains being allowed to be covered in without previous inspection.

In conclusion I have to thank you for your help and confidence during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ALFRED FORT,

“Inspector of Nuisances”

